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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany REPORT NO. _____

TOPIC Laerz and Rechlin Airfields

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EVALUATION _____ PLACE OBTAINED _____

DATE OF CONTENT 15 December 1949

DATE OBTAINED _____ DATE PREPARED 16 February 1950

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

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1. About 70 fighters were parked in four groups of about the same size on both sides of the taxiway in the southwest section of the Laerz (N 54/U 33) airfield. The aircraft of the individual groups had different colors, two groups being painted green and two groups blue. All blue planes had red propeller hubs. Description: Radial engine, three-bladed propeller, thick propeller hub, clumsy fuselage, trapezoidal wings, wing tips slightly rounded, triangular rudder assembly rounded at rear, mounted cockpit beginning at about trailing edge of wings and fairing into fuselage to the rear, landing gear retracting inward.
2. Each group had two or three planes with one long, presumably two-seat cockpit, whereas all other planes were definitely single-seat. Individual aircraft and two biplanes were parked on the southern edge of the field. Only three fighters made local flights during rainy weather. There were no twin-engine aircraft at the field.
3. The landing field was estimated at 2,500 meters in an E-W direction and 1,500 meters in a N-S direction. There was an E-W runway, at least 50 x 1,800 meters. The eastern and western ends of the runway, which were extended to a landing plateau, were connected with each other by a taxiway running along the south edge. The only building on the south edge was the flight control station, which was marked by a wind-cone and a cup anemometer.
4. There was heavy motor vehicle traffic between the airfield and Rechlin (N 54/U 33). Mostly tank trucks were seen going from Rechlin to the airfield to refuel the planes. The following motor vehicles _____

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passenger car
truck
truck
T tank truck
T tank truck
tank truck

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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passenger car
passenger car
passenger car
passenger car

truck

truck
truck
truck
truck

5. The northern section of the settlement west of the Ellerholz (N 54/U 33) railway station was occupied by Soviet officers' dependents, estimated at 140. The northern section bordered on a restricted area comprised of the former air force kasernes which, according to local residents, was occupied by about 1,500 Soviet Air Force troops. A railroad spur track led into the restricted area. West of the area there was a radio truck with an about 6-meter mast at whose head a cross antenna, about 2 meters in diameter, was fixed.
6. The Rechlin airfield was not occupied. According to local residents, the field was graded but has not yet been used. German workers were engaged in removing the railway track to the shipyard and in salvaging material from the remaining buildings and hangars.

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Comment:

The occupation strength of the airfield has apparently not changed in comparison with observations made in previous months.

- * It is assumed that Laerz is occupied by two fighter regiments equipped with LA-9s. The regiments were previously stationed in Werleberg and Wittstock. This is again confirmed by the motor vehicle numbers mentioned. According to the [REDACTED] it is assumed that the headquarters of the fighter division to which the two Laerz regiments and the Marchim fighter regiment are assigned is also stationed in Laerz.

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The information on the Rechlin airfield is confirmed by [REDACTED] it is not assumed that an air unit is stationed there.

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